

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 301817
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 SIG-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
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TO AMEMBASSY BERN
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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S E C R E T STATE 301817

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, HR

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN SANCTIONS

REF: (A) BERN 5850; (B) STATE 297440; (C) BERN 5899

1. FOLLOWING UPONSWISS PROHIBITION OF TRIANGULAR TRADE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 301817

WITH RHODESIA (REFTEL) EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH GOS TO
EXPRESS US PLEASURE AT RECENT FEDERAL COUNCIL DECREE
AND HOPE THAT SWISS WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO
MAKE UNSC SANCTIONS ON RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA MORE
EFFECTIVE.

2. DEMARCHE SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- US IS GRATIFIED AT FEDERAL COUNCIL DECREE PROHIBITING TRIANGULAR TRADE BETWEEN FOREIGN AND RHODESIAN FIRMS VIA SWISS INTERMEDIARIES. WE REGARD THIS AS POSITIVE STEP AND HOPE IT WILL LEAD TO OTHER MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY COUNCIL SANCTIONS ON RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. WE BELIEVE THAT EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF SANCTIONS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT NOW AS WE ARE AT A CRUCIAL JUNCTURE IN OUR EFFORTS TO PRESSURE SMITH AND SOUTH AFRICA TO MODERATE THEIR INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS.

-- AS GOS IS AWARE, USG IS EAGER TO TIGHTEN FURTHER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENFORCEMENT OF SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH THE SWISS GOVERNMENT MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE CONCERNING ANY US FIRMS WHICH MAY HAVE EVADED SANCTIONS THROUGH USE OF SWISS INTERMEDIARIES TO TRADE WITH RHODESIAN FIRMS.

-- THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 418, WHICH ESTABLISHED A MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, CLEARLY PROHIBITS ALL TRADE IN ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA REGARDLESS OF EXISTING CONTRACTS. OTHER SC MEMBERS AND UN LEGAL COUNSEL AGREE WITH THIS INTERPRETATION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 301817

-- LIKE EARLIER SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS IMPOSING SANCTIONS ON RHODESIA, RESOLUTION 418 CALLS UPON NON-MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF THE SANCTIONS. THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THAT, AS A NON-MEMBER, SWITZERLAND IS NOT STRICTLY BOUND BY THE TERMS OF ANY UN SANCTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, THE USG HOPES THAT THE GOS WOULD PERCEIVE IT TO BE IN KEEPING WITH ITS OWN HUMANITARIAN OUTLOOK TO ADHERE TO THE SANCTIONS INVOLVING RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

-- THE GOS WILL, OF COURSE, BE AWARE OF THE RECENT DECISION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO CREATE A WATCHDOG COMMITTEE, SIMILAR TO THE RHODESIA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE, WHOSE TASK IT WILL BE TO MONITOR CLOSELY THE COMPLIANCE OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY WITH THE TERMS OF THE MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. WE SUSPECT THAT SOVIETS AND OTHERS WILL TRY TO USE THIS UN MECHANISM TO EMBARRASS WESTERN GOVERNMENTS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF SANCTIONS.

-- THE USG WISHES TO ASSURE THE GOS THAT IT IS IN NO WAY BEING SINGLED OUT FOR AN APPROACH ON THIS SUBJECT. THE

UNITED STATES IS APPROACHING A NUMBER OF FRIENDLY STATES
ALONG SIMILAR LINES, NOT IN AN ATTEMPT TO FOCUS CRITICISM
IN ANY PARTICULAR DIRECTION, BUT MERELY TO ENSURE INsofar
AS POSSIBLE THE MOST EFFICACIOUS APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS
PROVISIONS.

3. POINTS ENUMERATED ABOVE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS FOLLOW-
UP TO OCTOBER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MAYNES, US AMBASSADOR WARNER AND SWISS AMBASSADOR WEITNAUER.

4. FYI: WE ARE SENDING BY SEPARATE CHANNEL ADDITIONAL
DATA ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH PROVIDES SUBSTANTIAL BASIS
FOR OUR CONCERNS. END FYI. VANCE

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Sent Date: 19-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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